

November 15, 1946

Handwritten initials and signature in the top right corner.

Dr. M. Demerec  
Department of Genetics  
Carnegie Institution of Washington  
Cold Spring Harbor  
Long Island, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Demerec:

Spiegelman writes me that Lindegren has revised his C.S.H. paper taking into account the criticisms that I and others raised at that time and that he (Spiegelman) has suggested to you that the criticisms be deleted from the published volume. Needless to say, I am very glad to hear that our criticisms carried sufficient weight with Lindegren to induce him to revise his paper. However, I am sure that your sense of fair play will not allow you to agree to the deletion of all the criticisms without the consent of the critics. It seems to me quite possible that our criticisms are not unnecessary, although I am sure you will agree that the final decision on that point should not only be left to the critics but that they should be provided with the means of making such a decision. Namely, a chance to read the revised manuscript. I hope, therefore, that you will arrange for me to see the paper and let you know whether I agree to the omission of my criticisms.

It seems to me indeed that whether the criticisms are to be published or not, I should have a chance to read the manuscript for it might in fact put me in the position of publishing comments that are not at all pertinent to the paper if, as Spiegelman says, the points have all been answered in the body of the paper. It is one of those cases where you may be damned if you do and damned if you don't, and I do not see how justice can be done all around unless we are given full opportunity to decide what is the appropriate thing to do.

I realize that this is a very late date for such a decision to be made, but it is an equally late date for a revised manuscript to be submitted; and, since the latter is an accepted fact, it seems to me that we have to take whatever time is necessary to make the proper adjustments. I feel confident that you will agree with the stand I have taken.

I am looking forward to seeing you and the rest of my C.S.H. friends at Boston next month.

With very best wishes,

Cordially yours,

Sonneborn mss. II  
Manuscripts Department, Lilly Library  
Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana

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